

Appl. No. 09/745,471
Reply to Final Office Action of August 13, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-134 are presently active in this case; Claims 4-11, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30-32, 35-38, 40, 44-50, 53, 56, 57, 61, 63, 65, 71-78, 85, 87, 90, 91, 93, 95, 97, 98, 102-105, 107, 111-117, 120, 121, 123, 124, 130, and 132 previously withdrawn; and Claim 128 amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 34, 62, 101, and 129 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification; Claims 128 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,720,728 to Kando in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,838,497 to Kramer et al.; and Claims 1-3, 12-17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 33, 39, 41-43, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58-60, 62, 64, 66-70, 79-84, 86, 88, 89, 92, 94, 96, 99, 100, 106, 108-110, 118, 119, 122, 125-127, 131, 133, and 134 were allowed.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowance of Claims 1-3, 12-17, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 33, 39, 41-43, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58-60, 62, 64, 66-70, 79-84, 86, 88, 89, 92, 94, 96, 99, 100, 106, 108-110, 118, 119, 122, 125-127, 131, 133, and 134.

With regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 34, 62, 101 and 129 are properly described in the specification as originally filed. Specifically, these claims recite an intersection restricting means or member that restricts intersection of a straight storing means or device with a roll up

storing means or device. In referring to Figures 1 and 2, Applicants' specification at page 11, lines 19 - page 12, line 3 reads as follows:

The first tray 26 is inclined upward from the rear end of the lower unit 200 and implemented by a metallic wire configured like the teeth of a comb. The first tray 26 receives the sheet S being driven out in a direction d via a sheet outlet, which is located downstream of the rollers 14a and 14b. When the roll-up guide 27 is located at the roll-up position, the comb-like wire of the first tray 26 and that of the roll-up guide intersect each other. In this condition, part of the first tray 26 serves as an inlet (guiding means) to the roll-up guide 27.

Thus, the comb like wire of the first tray 26 intersects the comb-like wire of the roll-up guide 27. Applicants submit that if no stopping mechanism is provided, rotation of the comb like wire of the first tray 26 would pass through the spaces of the comb-like wire of the roll-up guide 27 thereby reducing the size of a roll up space provided to receive the paper. However, as described in the cited text above and shown in Figure 2, at a point of intersection between the first tray 26 and roll-up guide 27, the rod-like stop (metallic wire) 25 extends in a widthwise direction to intersect the wire of the tray 26 to prevent the roll-up guide 26 from passing through the first tray 26. That is, the stop 25 restricts intersection of the tray 26 and roll-up guide 27 which causes the trays to work in cooperation to form a roll up space (c in Figure 2) for rolling up a sheet. Therefore, Applicant's specification as originally filed discloses that the claimed intersecting restricting means or member forms a roll-up space, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 128, in order to expedite issuance of a patent in this case, Applicants have now amended this claim to further clarify the patentable features of the claimed invention over the cited references. Specifically, Claim 128, as amended, recites

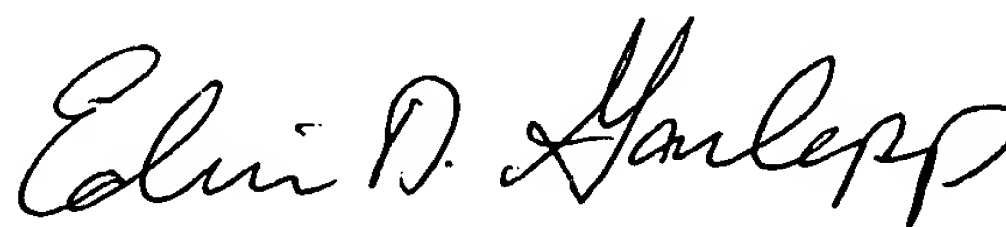
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that the roll up storing intersects the straight storage and works in cooperation with the straight storage to roll up the sheet. As described in the Amendment filed May 27, 2003, neither Kramer et al. nor Kando et al. disclose a device for rolling up, in cooperation with an adjacent straight storage tray, the sheet discharged from a sheet conveying device. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that no further search or consideration is needed for allowance of Claim 128 because this claim now clearly recites the feature identified in the Official Action as allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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